

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Speaker: The Honourable GASPARD FAUTEUX

Friday, December 5, 1947

FOURTH SESSION—TWENTIETH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued on the seventeenth day of July, 1947, met this day at Ottawa, for the dispatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And the house having returned to the Commons chamber:

VACANCIES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess I received communications notifying me that the following vacancies have occurred in the representation, viz:

Of Honourable H. F. G. Bridges, member for the electoral district of York-Sunbury, by decease;

Of Honourable Grote Stirling, member for the electoral district of Yale, by resignation.

I accordingly issued my warrants to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts, respectively.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess the Clerk of the House has received from the chief electoral officer certificates of the election and return of the following members, viz:

Of Honourable Milton Fowler Gregg, for the electoral district of York-Sunbury;

Of John Horace Dickey, Esquire, for the electoral district of Halifax.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

Conditions throughout the world continue to be difficult and disturbing. The dislocations resulting from the ravages of war have become increasingly apparent. In Europe production has made only a partial recovery. In Asia, over large areas, active fighting continues. Shortages of the necessities of life, particularly of food, are still acute. In many countries, political and social unrest is serious. Failure to agree on peace settlements with Germany and Austria is preventing the recovery of Europe.

Canada was recently represented at a meeting of the nations of the commonwealth in Canberra. Problems related to the peace settlement in the Pacific were discussed in an exploratory manner. The government has welcomed the initiative of the United States in proposing an early conference on the peace treaty with Japan.